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Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

Preparations for the observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.2 (as amended by A/C.3/58/L.12)

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. Under the terms of operative paragraph 6 of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.2 (as amended by A/C.3/58/L.12), the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to launch the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family on 4 December 2003.

2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 6 bis of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.2 (as amended by A/C.3/58/L.12), the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to staff and strengthen the family unit in consideration of the celebration of the International Year of the Family and beyond and of the family-related dimensions of the millennium development goals.

3. Consistent with and in response to the Secretary-General's reform initiative (see A/57/387 and Corr.1), the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs has been reorganized with a view to realigning resources with priorities. In responding to specific legislative mandates, the Division draws on the skills and expertise of its entire staff. In the area of social integration, this approach applies to issues of family, ageing, youth and disability. While the organizational structure of the Division does not include a dedicated family unit, the present holistic approach to social integration enables the Secretariat to effectively and efficiently address intergenerational issues collectively as well as

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for each social group. It is the intention of the Secretariat to meet the requirements of the programme of work related to the family from within existing resources.

4. The attention of the Committee is drawn to the provisions of section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters; and reaffirmed also the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. Under the circumstances, the consideration by the Third Committee of paragraph 6 bis of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.2 (as amended by A/C.3/58/L.12) may be considered to be in contravention of resolution 45/248 B as it directly addresses resource issues which fall within the exclusive prerogative of the Fifth Committee.